

IMPORTANT ARMY NEWS.

RESIGNATION OF GEN. BURNSIDE.

General Hooker to Command the Army of the Potomac.

General Franklin and General Sumner Relieved of Their Commands.

BURNSIDE'S ADDRESS TO THE ARMY.

One of the Reasons Assigned for the Change.

RECEPTION OF THE NEWS IN THE ARMY.

Movements of General Burnside—When He Was Relieved of His Command.

Major General Burnside has made arrangements to be in New York early this week.

On Saturday morning General Burnside, at his own request, was relieved of the command of the Army of the Potomac.

President Lincoln almost immediately afterwards conferred the chief command of that army on Major General Joseph Hooker.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Jan. 26, 1863.

This morning Major General Burnside turned over the command of the Army of the Potomac to Major General Joseph Hooker, who came to the headquarters of the camp for that purpose.

As soon as the change became known throughout the army a considerable number of the superior officers called on General Burnside and took their parting leave of him with many regrets.

The following is the address of General Burnside to the army:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Jan. 26, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 9.

By direction of the President of the United States, the Commanding General this day transfers the command of this Army to Major General Joseph Hooker.

The short time that he has directed your movements has not been fruitful of victory nor any considerable advancement of our line; but it has again demonstrated an amount of courage, patience and endurance that, under more favorable circumstances, would have accomplished great results.

Continue to exercise these virtues, be true in your devotion to your country and the principles you have sworn to maintain, give to the brave and skillful general who has long been identified with your organization, and who is now to command you, your full and cordial support and cooperation, and you will achieve success.

Your general, in taking an allocution leave of the army, from which he separates with so much regret, may be pardoned if he bids an especial farewell to his long and tried associates of the Ninth corps. His prayers are that God may be with you and grant you continual success until the rebellion is crushed. By command of

Major General BURNSIDE.

Lewis RICHMOND, Acting Adjutant General.

It is understood that Major General Sumner and Major General Franklin have also been relieved of their commands, the right and left grand divisions of the Army of the Potomac, but the names of their successors have not yet been divulged, nor is it known who have been appointed to take their places.

General Burnside, with most of his late staff, has been absent thirty days' leave of absence. They go to New York.

The weather is warm and pleasant.

The mud is fast drying up.

General Burnside's Departure from the Army of the Potomac.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Jan. 26, 1863.

The publication of General Burnside's farewell address to the Army of the Potomac and the announcement of General Hooker's appointment as his successor, was made to-day.

It was known that General Burnside had been absent from headquarters since Friday night until last evening, and, although there had been some conjectures that it might possibly indicate an early termination of his connection with the army, still few supposed it would come quite so soon. As soon as it was known that he had been relieved, many officers called to pay a farewell visit and express their regret at the separation. Although his efforts have not met with that success which his unselfish patriotic devotion to the cause and the military capacity which he has displayed, deserve, yet it was felt that he was not from any fault or shortcoming on his part. Their kind feelings were fully reciprocated by the General, who, though doubtless regretted the loss of a command which he had never desired, could not but feel regret at parting from his companions in arms, with some of whom he had seen much service and won glorious victories on other fields.

At ten o'clock the command was turned over to General Hooker, and General Burnside's connection with the Army of the Potomac terminated.

Leave of absence for thirty days was given to all the members of his staff and to most of the clerks and employees in the Adjutant General's and other departments.

At half-past one P. M. they all took their departure from the Falmouth station and proceeded to Aquia Creek. General Sumner and his son, Captain Sumner, also accompanied him.

General Sumner and Franklin, commanding the right and left grand divisions, have also been relieved of their commands and ordered to report in person at Washington.

Among those who left with General Burnside were Major General Parke, Chief of staff, General Patrick, Provost Marshal General, and Lieutenant Colonel Richmond, Assistant Adjutant General. The party reached Aquia Creek between two and three o'clock P. M., and embarked on board the steamer Carrie Martin, which left soon after for Washington.

General Hooker is very busy engaged in organizing his staff and making the appointments and arrangements which this change necessitates.

Arrival of Generals Burnside, Sumner and Franklin in Washington.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 1863.

When Generals Burnside and Sumner arrived this evening at Willard's they were rapturously cheered by the people.

General Franklin has also arrived in this city.

The New Commander of the Army of the Potomac.

Major General Joseph Hooker, now appointed to the chief command of the Army of the Potomac, was born in 1819, and is consequently about forty-four years of age. His parents are both dead; he has no brother, and his three sisters are married, two of them residing in this State, the third in Ohio. He is an yet unmarried, and is a native of Hadley, Massachusetts, from which State he was appointed a cadet to West Point Military Academy in 1838. He graduated on the 25th of June, 1837, standing No. 29 in a class of 615 numbers, among whom were Generals Beaman, Arnold, T. Williams, French, Settleworth,

Bates, Todd and others of the Union army. In the Mexican war, W. W. Mackall, J. A. Early and other not rebel officers. On the 1st of July, 1857, he was promoted to the second lieutenant of the First United States Artillery, and on the 1st of November, 1858, was further promoted to a first lieutenant in the same regiment. From July 1 to October 3, 1861, he was the adjutant of the Military Academy at West Point, and from 1861 to 1862 was the adjutant of his regiment. He served with distinction in Mexico, and was aide-de-camp to Brigadier General Hamer. He was, in May, 1847, brevetted captain for gallant conduct in the several conflicts at Monterey, which took place on the 21st, 22d and 23d days of September, 1846. His brevet bore the last mentioned date. He was appointed on the staff as assistant adjutant general, with the brevet rank of captain, on the 10th of March, 1847, and in March, 1849, was further brevetted major for gallant and meritorious conduct in the affair at the National Bridge, Mexico, his brevet dating from June 11, 1847. In the same month he received another brevet—viz., lieutenant colonel—for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Chalchulpec. This brevet bore date September 13, 1847. On the 29th of October, 1848, he was appointed a captain of the First Artillery, and on the same day vacated his regimental commission, retaining his position in the Adjutant General's Department, with brevet of lieutenant colonel.

On the 21st of February, 1853, he resigned from the army while in California, where he retired into private life and purchased a tract of land. He then became a farmer in Sonoma, on the Bay of San Francisco. From this employment, when the government made an appropriation for a national road connecting California with Oregon, the subject of our sketch was chosen by Colonel Hache to superintend that enterprise. Colonel Hache was then Major of the Topographical Engineer Corps, and was in charge of the appropriation for the carrying out of that work. Colonel Hooker had but just completed this work and returned to his farm when the rebellion broke out.

General Hooker was strongly solicited while in Oregon to allow his name to be used in connection with the United States Senate. He, however, not only declined the suggestion, but, joining hands with Senator Nye, canvassed the whole State with him, and was thus confessedly a main instrument in placing in that body the honored Baker, who was his bosom friend.

As soon as he heard of the attack on Fort Sumter he left his farm and started for the East. On his arrival at the national capital he was appointed a brigadier general of volunteers, with a commission dating from the 17th of May, 1861, his appointment being accredited to the State of California. He at first acted under instructions from General Dix, but was afterwards appointed to a separate command under General McClellan. He then proceeded to reorganize the two disturbed counties of Maryland—Prince George's and Charles—and succeeded admirably, entirely reconquering those counties and disarming the secessionists without loss of life. His division at this time took military possession of the northern and eastern shores or left bank of the Potomac river, and several spirited excursions were made by portions of his command in the neighborhood of Rodes Ferry, Port Tobacco, &c., to the opposite Virginia shore. A portion of these troops afterwards crossed the Potomac, and took possession of the batteries which had blocked the river for some time previous, and, having effectually removed these obstructions, and advanced a short distance into the interior, were finally withdrawn, and transferred to the immediate command of General McClellan, on the peninsula. In the contest at Williamsburg his division bravely stood the brunt of the battle, the men of the Excelsior Brigade actually being moved down as they stood up in line. At Fair Oaks the men again showed their valor, and the General's fighting qualities. In the various minor contests Hooker took his part, and bravely went through with his share of the seven days' fight, particularly at the battles of Nelson's and Burnside's bridges. When McClellan's army was placed under the command of General Pope, he was called the names of "Fighting Joe Hooker" and the late General Kearny mentioned together in the thickest of the struggle.

When the combined armies were placed under General McClellan, in September, 1862, we find General Hooker placed in an important command and moving rapidly upon the one. At the battle of Antietam he was wounded in the foot. The following report will explain the part he took in that important battle.

CRESSKILL, Md., Sept. 17, 1862.

Major General McClellan—

A great battle has been fought, and we are victorious. I had the honor to open it yesterday afternoon, and it continued until ten o'clock this morning, when I was wounded and compelled to quit the field. The battle was fought with great violence on both sides. The courage has been awful. I only regret that I was not permitted to take part in the operations until they were concluded. I have fought with great valor in every battle since I have been in the Army of the Potomac. My wound has been painful, but it is not so bad as it was at first. I am now recovering from the effects of the wound, and I will be able to go to work again in a few days.

J. HOOKER, Brigadier General.

After the battle he was compelled to leave the field, and took up his residence with the family of his old and intimate friend, Mr. Nichols, superintendent of one of the government arsenals for the instant. Under this gentleman's charge he is said to have recovered from his wound. After his recovery he was appointed to the command of the Fifth army corps, made vacant by the removal of General Fitz John Porter. He had previously been promoted to the rank of Major General of Volunteers, with a commission dating from July 4, 1862. General Mansfield having been killed at Antietam, a vacancy was left among the brigadier generals of the regular army, and General Hooker was appointed to fill the same, with a commission dating from September 29, 1862. On the 12th of November, 1862, General Hooker assumed command of the Fifth army corps, and announced his staff in general order. On the 14th of November the Grand Army of the Potomac was divided into three grand divisions, each consisting of two corps, with the Eleventh corps acting as a reserve, under General Sigel. General Hooker was then placed in command of the centre of the Grand Army, embracing the Third and Fifth army corps, respectively under the command of Generals Sumner and Butterfield. At the battle of Fredericksburg this grand division lost between three and four thousand men, although it was late before they joined in the fight. On Saturday last the President sent in a further nomination with regard to General Hooker, desiring the resignation of Major General of Volunteers should date from May 5, 1862, instead of July 4, 1862, asserting as a reason that the former was the date of the battle of Williamsburg. On the 26th of January, 1863, (yesterday) General Hooker was appointed to the chief command of the Army of the Potomac, thereby relieving General Burnside.

In person, General Hooker is very tall, erect, compact, but not heavily built, extremely muscular, and of great physical endurance, of a light complexion, a fresh, ruddy countenance, full, clear mild eyes, intellectual head, brown hair, slightly tinged with gray—and altogether, one of the most commanding officers in his bearing and appearance in the army.

In social intercourse he is frank, unpretending and courteous, removing embarrassment from even the humblest soldier who approaches him. It is only when at the head of his command, or in the storm of battle that he arrays himself in the stern and lofty aspect of the commanding military chieftain.

Perhaps it may not be uninteresting to our readers to learn how the subject of our sketch obtained the now historic name of "Fighting Joe Hooker." On one occasion, after a battle, in which General Hooker's name had distinguished himself for their fighting qualities—thus adding to the fame of their commander—a dispatch to the New York Associated Press was received at the office of one of the principal agencies announcing the fact. One of the typists, wishing to show in an emphatic manner that this commander was really a fighting man, placed over the head of the name of Hooker the words "Fighting Joe Hooker." Of course this heading was sent to nearly every newspaper office of the country, and was adopted by the various agencies, and was readily adopted by the editors and printed in their journals. The newspaper was also adopted by the army and by the press, and is now well known all over the world. Thus an unpretending, innocent copyist, unaware that he was making history, prefixed to this General's name a title that will live forever in the annals of the country.

But it appears that General Hooker does not like his title, for, on one occasion, when called so by a friend, he is reported to have said, "Don't call me Fighting Joe, for that name has done and is doing me incalculable injury. It makes a portion of the public think that I am a hot headed, furious young fellow, accustomed to making far and needless dashes at the enemy." By this friend, it would appear

that although he has the characteristic of undoubted bravery and boldness, he still possesses some of that prudence and caution, without which, no general can be great.

General Hooker's friends in California have prepared a handsome testimonial in remembrance of his past services. It is a sword of the finest steel, with a hilt thickly studded with diamonds, a scabbard of solid silver, heavily and richly mounted with gold. The cost of this magnificent sword will be between \$4,000 and \$5,000. The inscriptions are as follows:

MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH HOOKER, FROM HIS FELLOW CITIZENS OF SAN FRANCISCO, DECEMBER 25, 1862.

Williamsburg—Fair Oaks—Gettysburg—Nelson's Bridge—Antietam—South Mountain—Antietam.

The whole affair is said to be creditable alike to the designers and the workmen who executed it.

IMPORTANT FROM ALBANY.

CALICOT ELECTED SPEAKER.

The Speaker Elect Declares Himself a Democrat, and Votes for Republican Candidates for Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms.

Charges of Corruption Made Against the Speaker and an Investigation Demanded.

THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE QUESTION.

The Revolutionary Developments at the State Capital.

Trouble Between the State and National Government Foreshadowed.

MORE SCENES OF DISORDER.

ALBANY, Jan. 26—P. M.

The election of Calicot as Speaker has transformed Congress Hall into the political Mecca of the State capital. Pilgrims of all ages and conditions, from the applicants for positions on committees and managers of special schemes down to the poor boys seeking the positions of pages, are dancing attendance on the new prophet. His rooms are completely overrun, and the hall crowded with those waiting their turn to see the successful candidate.

Some extraordinary developments in reference to the contest for Speaker are now coming to light—developments that not only show that certain republicans are not merely passive spectators, but that they are taking place, but also proving that the democratic leaders who they did not prevent a ballot being taken at the direct and positive approval of several republican members of the House of Representatives.

During the day, and before any of the resolutions on the resolutions of investigation, the Assembly adjourned until to-morrow morning, when the subject will be brought up, and no doubt another exciting time will follow.

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